

coordinating actual product deliveries with the receiving record, the opportunity for errors or over/under delivery is greatly reduced. The present system can be designed to only accept deliveries that match the purchase order and can require the entry of a specialized notice if the actual delivery does not match the associated purchase order.

5 The present invention also provides the vendors with the opportunity to be electronically integrated with the portal and accept purchase orders through the commerce portal. By establishing an account with the commerce portal, the vendors are able to provide product, pricing and delivery information for their goods, and allow the customers to shop through their products and purchase them online using their account. Where a vendor is not
10 electronically integrated and does not have a specific account with the commerce portal, the vendor is still able to receive orders initially submitted to the commerce portal by a buyer and subsequently placed by the customer service department of the commerce portal.

Thus, as discussed herein, the embodiments of the present invention embrace systems and methods for providing a dynamically customizable commerce portal for the purchasing
15 of goods and/or services that are offered for sale by a variety of vendors.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes that
20 come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for providing a commerce portal that may be used to procure one or more products offered for sale by a variety of vendors, the system comprising:

5 a commerce portal, wherein the portal includes a customizable selection of products offered for sale by a variety of vendors;

10 a first computer device configured to provide information for the commerce portal;

15 a second computer device configured to selectively access the commerce portal to procure products provided in the commerce portal;

20 a network, wherein the first and second computer devices are connected to the network;

25 purchasing information representing products provided in the commerce portal that are to be purchased by a customer, wherein the second computer transmits the purchase information to the commerce portal; and

30 a third computer device connected to the network that is configured to track the purchasing of products from the portal by the customer.

2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the third computer device is at least one of:

35 (i) the first computer device; and

40 (ii) the second computer device.

45 3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the products offered for sale are medical products.

4. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein the medical products relate to performing a dialysis procedure.

5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein a first product, of the products offered for sale, is from a first industry, and wherein a second product, of the products offered for sale is from a second industry.

6. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first computer device is a server.

10 7. A system as recited in claim 6, wherein the second computer device is a client.

8. A system as recited in claim 7, wherein the network is the Internet.

9. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the products represented by the
15 purchasing information are purchased electronically through the commerce portal.

10. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first computer is configured to selectively authorize access to the commerce portal.

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11. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the third computer is further configured to analyze information obtained by tracking the purchasing of products from the portal by the customer.

5 12. A system as recited in claim 11, wherein the third computer is configured to provide a report that includes information obtained by tracking the purchasing of products from the portal by the customer, wherein the report is provided to at least one of:

- (i) the customer; and
- (ii) a vendor.

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13. In a system that includes a computer device and a network, a method for providing a commerce portal that may be used in the procurement of products from vendors, the method comprising the steps for:

5 providing a commerce portal that includes a customizable selection of products offered for sale by a variety of vendors;

receiving a purchasing order that indicates products provided in the commerce portal that are to be purchased by a customer;

distributing the purchasing order to one or more vendors;

monitoring information relating to purchasing of the products; and

10 tracking the purchases made of products from the portal by the customer.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step for providing a commerce portal is performed by one or more servers.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the products offered for sale include products from a variety of different industries.

16. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the products offered for sale include various medical products.

17. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step for determining whether the purchasing order is authorized.

18. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising the step for providing a
5 purchase analysis to at least one of:

- (i) the customer; and
- (ii) at least one of the one or more vendors.

19. A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for providing a commerce portal that may be used in the procurement of products from vendors, the computer program product comprising

computer readable medium for providing computer program code means

5 utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

providing a commerce portal that includes a customizable selection of

products offered for sale by a variety of vendors;

receiving a purchasing information that indicates products provided in

10 the commerce portal that are to be purchased by a customer;

distributing the purchasing information to one or more vendors;

monitoring information relating to purchasing of the products included in the customizable selection of products; and

tracking the purchases made of products from the portal by the

15 customer.

20. A computer program product as recited in claim 19, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing at least one of the steps for:

20 (i) authorizing the purchase information relating to the commerce portal;

and

(ii) providing a purchase analysis.